

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (US Patent #6,917,824).

Drawings

It is noted that no Patent Drawing Review (Form PTO-948) was received with the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant must assume that the drawings are acceptable as filed.

Claim Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that claims 1-9 are allowed and claims 11-16 would be allowable if written in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claim 10 to include the limitations of claim 11 (as well as adjusted the dependency of claim 12). Applicant has also chosen to cancel claim 11. As a result, all claims now recite allowable subject matter. Therefore, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are rendered moot and no response is deemed necessary.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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